

TITLE

**PLASMA DISPLAY PANEL AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURE
THEREOF**

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

[0001] This application makes reference to, incorporates the same herein, and claims all benefits accruing under 35 U.S.C. §119 from an application entitled PLASMA DISPLAY PANEL filed with the Korean Industrial Property Office on 21 February 2003 and there duly assigned Serial No. 2003-0010997.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to a plasma display panel (PDP), and more particularly, to the arrangement of barrier ribs of a PDP to form both open and closed discharge cells.

Description of the Related Art

[0003] PDPs are emerging as one of the most popular flat panel display configurations used for wall-mounted televisions and other similar large-screen display applications. Predetermined images are displayed on the PDP using a discharge mechanism of discharge cells. In more detail, the PDP combines two substrates on which a plurality of electrodes is formed to realize a vacuum assembly, and discharge gas is provided between the two substrates before sealing the same. Discharge voltages are applied to the electrodes to thereby effect plasma discharge, and ultraviolet

1 rays generated during discharge excite phosphors formed in a predetermined pattern to thereby
2 realize the display of desired numbers, characters, and/or graphics.

3 [0004] PDPs are classified into two different discharge types, namely, a DC PDP and an AC
4 PDP, depending on the drive voltage waveform. PDPs can also be classified into either an
5 opposing discharge PDP or a surface discharge PDP, depending on the electrode structure.

6 [0005] Discharge cells are defined by barrier ribs formed in a predetermined pattern (for
7 example, a stripe pattern or a lattice pattern) on one of the substrates. The barrier ribs act to
8 separate the discharge cells corresponding to a pixel pattern and also function as a spacer to
9 maintain a cell gap between the two substrates.

10 [0006] The different formations of the barrier ribs have different advantages. In particular, with
11 the use of stripe barrier ribs, the many discharge cells present between the barrier ribs are in
12 communication (i.e., the discharge cells between each pair of adjacent barrier ribs are in
13 communication), and as a result, exhaust of the PDP and sealing of the discharge gas within the
14 PDP are relatively easily performed during manufacture.

15 [0007] With closed barrier ribs realized by a lattice pattern of the same, on the other hand, the
16 discharge cells are not in communication. That is, the barrier ribs are formed into individual units
17 having a quadrilateral, hexagonal, or other such shape. With the closed barrier ribs, the discharge
18 cells are separately formed for each pixel, and phosphors can be deposited over all inner surfaces
19 of barrier ribs that form each pixel. Therefore, an area of illumination for each unit pixel is
20 increased by increasing the amount of space on which phosphors can be deposited. The result is
21 an increased brightness of the PDP.

1 **[0008]** This advantage of the lattice barrier rib structure has led to greater application of the
2 same over the stripe configuration in recent times.

3 **[0009]** However, the barrier ribs provided in a lattice pattern make exhaust of the PDP difficult
4 during manufacture. In more detail, depressions are typically formed on distal ends of the barrier
5 ribs such that gaps are formed between the barrier ribs and an element of the substrate opposing
6 the substrate on which the barrier ribs are formed, for example, an MgO oxidation layer. Although
7 these gaps form exhaust paths to allow evacuation of the PDP, the minimal size of the gaps is such
8 that there is significant resistance during this process. Japanese Laid-Open Patent No.
9 2002-175762 relates to a PDP with this structure.

10 **[0010]** A different configuration is introduced in Japanese Laid-Open Patent No. Heisei
11 2002-83545 which relates to a PDP where closed barrier ribs are formed using a material that has
12 a heat shrink property. The barrier ribs are formed having areas of a lesser height that function as
13 exhaust paths to thereby form a mesh-type structure of the exhaust paths. Although it is claimed
14 that such a barrier rib structure reduces exhaust resistance during the evacuation process, there is
15 a limited number of actual paths through which exhaust can occur as a result of the mesh
16 configuration. This can result in insufficient exhaust of the PDP.

17 **[0011]** The following patents each discloses features in common with the present invention but
18 do not teach or suggest the inventive features specifically recited in the present application:
19 Japanese Patent Publication No. 2002-175762 to Ueda, entitled *PLASMA DISPLAY PANEL AND*
20 *ITS MANUFACTURING METHOD*, published on 21 June 2002, and Japanese Patent Publication
21 No. 2002-83545 to Kunii, *et al.*, entitled *PLASMA DISPLAY PANEL AND METHOD FOR*

1 *MANUFACTURING THE SAME*, published on 22 March 2002.

2 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

3 [0012] In one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a plasma
4 display panel that improves a barrier rib structure such that exhaust efficiency is enhanced during
5 manufacture.

6 [0013] In an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, a plasma display panel includes
7 a first substrate, a second substrate opposing the first substrate with a predetermined gap
8 therebetween, and barrier ribs mounted between the first substrate and the second substrate
9 defining a plurality of discharge cells. At least one row of every three rows of the discharge cells
10 is formed in an open configuration to thereby realize open discharge cells, and the other rows of
11 the discharge cells excluding the at least one row include discharge cells formed in a closed
12 configuration to thereby realize closed discharge cells.

13 [0014] Phosphor films realized through red, green, and blue phosphors are formed in the
14 discharge cells. The red phosphors can be formed in the open discharge cells, and the green and
15 blue phosphors can be formed in the closed discharge cells.

16 [0015] The open discharge cells and the closed discharge cells are formed in a predetermined
17 pattern and this pattern is repeated. The open discharge cells can be formed in a stripe pattern and
18 the closed discharge cells can be formed into quadrilateral shapes.

19 [0016] In one exemplary embodiment, the closed discharge cells are defined by first barrier ribs
20 formed in a lattice configuration, and the open discharge cells are defined by spaces formed by the

first barrier ribs.

[0017] In another exemplary embodiment, the closed discharge cells are defined by first barrier ribs formed in a lattice configuration, and the open discharge cells are defined by spaces formed by the first barrier ribs and by second barrier ribs mounted in the spaces.

[0018] One cell unit can include two rows of the closed discharge cells and one row of the open discharge cells, and the cell units are repeatedly formed. Alternatively, one cell unit can include one row of the closed discharge cells and two rows of the open discharge cells, and the cell units are repeatedly formed.

[0019] Red and blue phosphors can be formed in the open discharge cells, and the green phosphors can be formed in the closed discharge cells.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0020] A more complete appreciation of the invention, and many of the attendant advantages thereof, will be readily apparent as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which like reference symbols indicate the same or similar components, wherein:

[0021] FIG. 1 is a partial exploded perspective view of a plasma display panel according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

[0022] FIG. 2 is a partial exploded plan view of a barrier rib structure and arrangement of R, G, and B phosphors in the plasma display panel of FIG. 1;

[0023] FIG. 3 is a partial exploded perspective view of a plasma display panel according to

1 another exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

2 [0024] FIG. 4 is a partial exploded plan view of a barrier rib structure and arrangement of R, G,
3 and B phosphors in the plasma display panel of FIG. 3.

4 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

5 [0025] Embodiments of the present invention will now be described in detail with reference to
6 the accompanying drawings.

7 [0026] Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, a plasma display panel (PDP) 20 includes a first substrate
8 22 and a second substrate 24 opposing one another with a predetermined gap therebetween. The
9 first and second substrates 22 and 24 are made of a transparent glass. A configuration is provided
10 between the first and second substrates 22 and 24 such that images are displayed by a discharge
11 mechanism.

12 [0027] In more detail, discharge sustain electrodes 26 are formed on the first substrate 22 (or
13 front substrate), and address electrodes 28 are formed on the second substrate 24 (or rear
14 substrate). Further, barrier ribs 32 are formed between the first substrate 22 and the second
15 substrate 24 to define a plurality of discharge cells 30 therebetween in which a discharge occurs.
16 Phosphor films 34 comprised of R, G, and B phosphors are formed in the discharge cells 30.

17 [0028] A first dielectric layer 36 is deposited on the first substrate 22 covering the discharge
18 sustain electrodes 26, and a protection layer 38 is deposited on the dielectric layer 36. A second
19 dielectric layer 40 is deposited on the second substrate 24 covering the address electrodes 28 to
20 be positioned between the address electrodes 28 and the barrier ribs 32. The phosphor films 34 are

1 formed covering inner walls of the barrier ribs 32 and an upper, exposed surface of the second
2 dielectric layer 40 within the discharge cells 30.

3 **[0029]** The discharge sustain electrodes 26 are mounted on the first substrate 22 substantially
4 perpendicular to the address electrodes 28 formed on the second substrate 24. Each of the
5 discharge sustain electrodes 26 includes a transparent electrode 26a and an opaque bus electrode
6 26b. The transparent electrodes 26a can be made of ITO and the opaque bus electrodes 26b can
7 be made of metal.

8 **[0030]** The transparent electrodes 26a are paired together in electrode formations in which two
9 of the transparent electrodes 26a oppose one another in areas corresponding to each discharge cell
10 30. One of the bus electrodes 26b is formed on each of the transparent electrodes 26a and
11 electrically connected thereto and is arranged substantially perpendicular to the address electrodes
12 28.

13 **[0031]** The barrier ribs 32 provided in this structure are formed having the following features
14 with respect to formation and arrangement.

15 **[0032]** If “rows” of the barrier ribs 32 refer to a grouping thereof that are formed adjacent along
16 the direction the address electrodes 28, at least one of every three rows of the barrier ribs 32 is
17 formed in an open configuration such that discharge cells 30a in this row are in communication.
18 The remaining two rows of each set of three rows are formed in a closed configuration such that
19 discharge cells 30b of these rows are formed as separate units.

20 **[0033]** In an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the discharge cells 30 are arranged
21 by repeating a predetermined pattern. In this exemplary embodiment, the discharge cells 30 are

1 formed in cell units of two adjacent rows of the discharge cells 30b formed in a closed
2 configuration (also referred to as closed discharge cells), and one row of the discharge cells 30a
3 formed in an open configuration (also referred to as open discharge cells). This cell unit structure
4 is repeated over most of the second substrate 24.

5 **[0034]** The closed discharge cells 30b are formed by first barrier ribs 32a having a lattice
6 configuration, and the open discharge cells 30a are formed in a space between the first barrier ribs
7 32a, that is, a space formed between paired rows of the closed discharge cells 30b formed by the
8 first barrier ribs 32a. The open discharge cells 30a are formed in a stripe pattern, and the closed
9 discharge cells 30b are formed into quadrilateral shapes as a result of the lattice configuration of
10 the first barrier ribs 32a as described above. However, the present invention is not limited in this
11 regard and it is possible to realize various different open and closed configurations.

12 **[0035]** With reference to FIG. 2, for each of the cell units, a green phosphor layer G is formed
13 in the closed discharge cells 30b of one of the two adjacent rows of the same, and a blue phosphor
14 film B is formed in the closed discharge cells 30b of the other of the two adjacent rows of the
15 same. Also, a red phosphor film R is formed in the open discharge cells 30a of the third row
16 comprising the cell unit. Green phosphors significantly affect brightness and blue phosphors
17 significantly affect color purity. Red phosphors, however, have minimal impact on both brightness
18 and color purity.

19 **[0036]** Since there is an increased number of walls (i.e., increased area) on which phosphors can
20 be printed in the case of the closed discharge cells 30b, green and blue phosphors, which
21 significantly affect brightness and color purity, respectively, are applied to these closed discharge

cells 30b. The red phosphors, which have only a limited affect on brightness and color purity, are applied to the open discharge cells 30a. That is, utilizing the fact that red phosphors only minimally affect brightness and color purity of the PDP, every third row of the discharge cells 30 is formed as the open discharge cells 30a and the red phosphors are formed therein. The open discharge cells 30a enable easier exhaust of the PDP as a result of these open rows of the open discharge cells 30a that act as exhaust paths during manufacture.

[0037] In the exemplary embodiment described above, manufacture is made easy by forming the open rows of the open discharge cells 30a by simply omitting one row in each cell unit of the closed discharge cells 30b formed by the first barrier ribs 32a of a lattice configuration (rather than by forming additional lattice walls for the formation of the discharge cells 30a).

[0038] A PDP according to another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, with reference to FIGS. 3 and 4, includes barrier ribs 60 that form discharge cells 50. That is, for every three adjacent rows of the discharge cells 50 that are formed along the direction address electrodes (not shown), two rows are comprised of open discharge cells 50a formed in a stripe pattern, and the remaining one row is comprised of closed discharge cells 50b formed into quadrilateral shapes. The barrier ribs 60 include first barrier rib members 60a that form the closed discharge cells 50b, and second barrier rib members 60b that form the open discharge cells 50a.

[0039] Referring to FIG. 4, a green phosphor film G is formed in each of the closed discharge cells 50b. Green phosphors forming the green phosphor film G significantly affect brightness of the PDP. Further, for each of the three adjacent rows of the discharge cells 50, a blue phosphor film B is formed in one of the two rows comprising the open discharge cells 50a and a red

phosphor film R is formed in the other of the two rows comprising the open discharge cells 50a.

[0040] In this embodiment of the present invention, the second barrier ribs 60b and the first barrier ribs 60a are alternately formed at predetermined intervals along a direction substantially perpendicular to the direction the address electrodes (not shown). That is, the lattice-type first barrier ribs 60a are formed at predetermined intervals, and the stripe-type second barrier ribs 60b are formed substantially centered between two adjacent first barrier ribs 60a such that the spaces therebetween are divided approximately into two equal sections to form the open discharge cells 50a. Each of these equal sections are formed to have a width in the direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of the address electrodes (not shown) corresponding to a width in the same direction of the closed discharge cells 50b.

[0041] In the PDP according to the exemplary embodiments of the present invention described above, the number of open discharge cells and closed discharge cells can be varied as needed.

[0042] Further, a configuration can be used that brings about the same effect as providing discharge cells of different widths. In particular, in order to increase the amount of illumination of specific phosphors to enhance a specific characteristic such as brightness or color purity, the barrier ribs forming the discharge cells in which these phosphors are deposited are provided in a lattice configuration, while the barrier ribs forming the discharge cells in which the other phosphors are deposited are provided in a stripe configuration. Areas of illumination are varied using these different configurations such that the amount of illumination of specific phosphors can be controlled.

[0043] In the PDP of the present invention described above, exhaust resistance is minimized by

1 forming the stripe-type discharge cells that act as exhaust paths. Further, by avoiding the formation
2 of the barrier ribs with height variations in an attempt to provide exhaust paths, the problems of
3 phosphors being deposited on distal ends of the barrier ribs and of phosphors entering into
4 discharge cells of adjacent rows of discharge cells during formation of the phosphor films are
5 prevented.

6 [0044] In addition, desired panel characteristics such as brightness and color purity can be
7 obtained by forming the discharge cells as individual units through lattice-type barrier ribs or in
8 a stripe configuration. Stated differently, such manipulation allows the discharge cells to be formed
9 to the same width while obtaining an effect as if the widths were different.

10 [0045] Although embodiments of the present invention have been described in detail
11 hereinabove in connection with certain exemplary embodiments, it should be understood that the
12 invention is not limited to the disclosed exemplary embodiments, but, on the contrary is intended
13 to cover various modifications and/or equivalent arrangements included within the spirit and scope
14 of the present invention, as defined in the appended claims.